

# 2023 ECONOMIC REPORT ST. LOUIS REGION



The St. Louis Region is comprised of five counties and is located in the east central part of Missouri. The region is home to several cities including Arnold, Washington, St. Charles, St. Peters, Florissant, O'Fallon, Chesterfield, and the City of St. Louis.

The St. Louis Region workforce has more than 1,051,200 employees, making up 35 percent of Missouri's employment. In 2022, 49.9 percent of the workforce was female and 50.1 percent was male, which is close to the Missouri average. The regional average unemployment rate for 2022 was 2.4 percent.

The workforce is getting older in the St. Louis Region, a trend continuing throughout Missouri and the U.S. In 2022, 23.7 percent of the workforce was age 55 or older, up from 19 percent a decade earlier.

For the region, 24.4 percent of the workforce was non-white and 3.5 percent was Hispanic or Latino. This compares to the state averages of 18.1 percent non-white and 4.9 percent Hispanic or Latino.

In the St. Louis Region, 9.6 percent of the region's population (ages 18 to 64) speaks a language other than English at home. By comparison, Missouri was at 7.1 percent and the U.S. was at 23.7 percent.

The St. Louis Region has a lower percentage of the population with a disability compared to the state, but closely matched to the nation. For the St. Louis Region, 9.8 percent of the population has a disability compared to 12.3 percent in Missouri and 10.3 percent in the U.S.

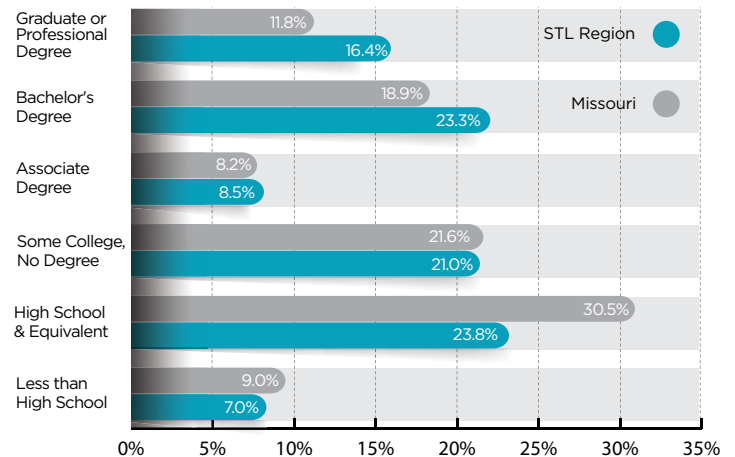
## Workforce Demographics

	St. Louis MO	Missouri	Nationwide
Average Monthly Employment in 2022	1,051,242	2,984,340	158,291,000
Average Unemployment Rate in 2022	2.4%	2.5%	3.6%
Male	50.1%	51.1%	51.5%
Female	49.9%	48.9%	48.5%
Non-White	24.4%	18.1%	24.2%
Hispanic or Latino	3.5%	4.9%	17.4%
Ages 55 and Older	23.7%	22.5%	22.8%
With Disabilities (Ages 18-64)	9.8%	12.3%	10.3%
Below Poverty Levels (Ages 18-64)	9.7%	12.5%	11.7%
Language other than English (Ages 18-64)	9.6%	7.1%	23.7%
Education of Associate Degree or Higher	48.2%	38.9%	42.4%
Veterans (Age 18-64)	3.9%	4.9%	4.5%

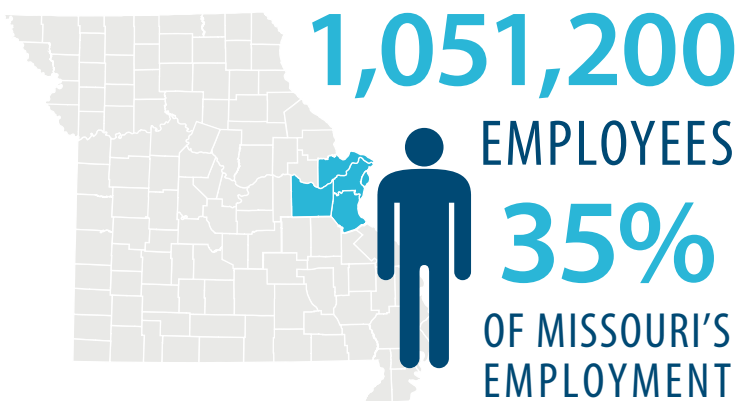
SOURCES: CENSUS ACS 2021-5YR EST.; LEHD 2ND QUARTER; BLS LAUS 2022

Educational attainment rates for the St. Louis Region are greater than those of the state for bachelor's or advanced degrees. Forty-eight percent of the region's population, age 25 and older, has an associate, bachelor's, or advanced degree compared to 39 percent for the state, and about 42 percent for the nation. About 7.0 percent of the region's population of age 25 and older has less than high school education.

## Educational Attainment



SOURCE: US CENSUS BUREAU, ACS 2021 5-YEAR ESTIMATES

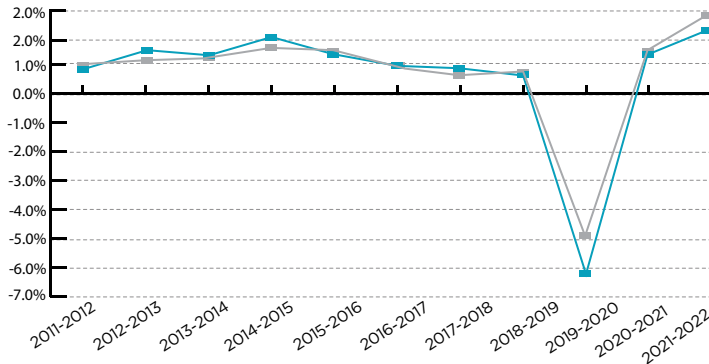


# ST. LOUIS REGION

## INDUSTRY ANALYSIS

The St. Louis Region averaged over 1,055,800 jobs in 2022. The region gained 23,453 jobs, an increase of 2.3 percent from 2021 to 2022. From 2018 to 2022, the St. Louis Region averaged -0.37 percent compound annual growth for an overall decrease of 1.8 percent. During that same period (2018-2022) Missouri had a compound annual employment gain of 0.2 percent for an overall gain of 0.9 percent.

St. Louis Employment Annual Growth Rate



*Health Care and Social Assistance* is the largest employing industry in the St. Louis Region, with employment of over 185,700. *Retail Trade* is the second largest industry despite declining at an average rate of 0.9 percent a year since 2018. *Accommodation and Food Services* lost over 7,344 jobs in 2022 when compared to 2018.

*Manufacturing* grew at a compound annualized rate of 0.8 percent. The industry sector with the largest increase in employment was *Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services*, with an increase of about 7,000 jobs, at a rate of 1.9 percent annually from 2018 to 2022.

Industry sectors in the St. Louis Region that lost employment between 2018 and 2022 include *Accommodation and Food Services*; *Retail Trade*; *Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services*; *Management of Companies and Enterprises*; and *Educational Services*.

### St. Louis Region Top Employing Industries

Industry	Employment		Net Change	2018-2022 Empl. CAGR	2021 Annual Wages
	2018	2022			
Health Care & Social Assistance	181,583	185,785	4,202	0.46%	\$60,528
Retail Trade	110,582	105,759	-4,823	-0.9%	\$41,100
Manufacturing	94,201	98,266	4,065	0.8%	\$81,540
Accommodation & Food Services	103,768	96,424	-7,344	-1.5%	\$26,460
Professional, Science & Tech. Servs.	72,764	79,761	6,997	1.9%	\$94,452
Administrative Support & Waste	82,706	78,844	-3,862	-1.0%	\$54,660
Educational Services	75,219	73,437	-1,782	-0.5%	\$57,228
Finance & Insurance	64,384	67,583	3,199	1.0%	\$100,800
Construction	56,507	61,033	4,526	1.6%	\$72,876
Wholesale Trade	54,479	58,175	3,696	1.3%	\$88,716
Transportation & Warehousing	37,195	42,879	5,684	2.9%	\$52,560
Mngt. of Companies & Enterprises	42,644	39,518	-3,126	-1.5%	\$109,308

SOURCE: LEHD QWI, 2018-2022 QUARTER 3 DATA

## LOCATION QUOTIENT

To understand the major industries within a region, an analysis of industry concentration or clustering can be useful. The Location Quotient (LQ) describes the concentration of an industry in a geographic region, in relation to the nation, with 1.0 being the national average. Industries with higher than 1.0 LQ indicate a concentration.

The St. Louis Region has higher concentrations in *Management of Companies and Enterprises*; *Chemical Manufacturing*; and *Hospitals*.



HIGHEST 2022  
LQ 2.1

## MANAGEMENT OF COMPANIES AND ENTERPRISES

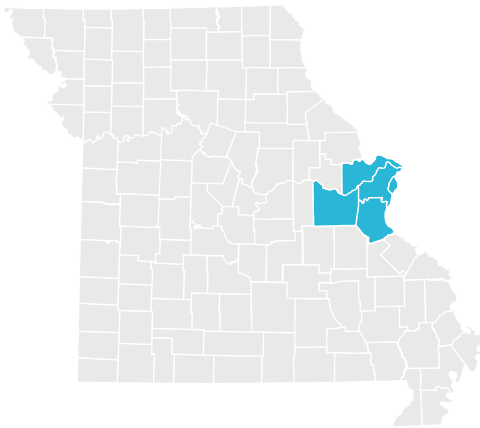
### 2022 St. Louis Region Location Quotients

Industry	Employment	Location Quotient
Management of Companies & Enterprises	36,376	2.1
Chemical Manufacturing	11,886	1.9
Hospitals	60,136	1.7
Beverage & Tobacco Product Mnf.	3,552	1.6
Machinery Manufacturing	11,866	1.5
Printing & Related Support Activities	4,039	1.5
Securities, Comm. Contracts, & Rel. Act.	10,549	1.5
Insurance Carriers and Related Activities	25,397	1.4
Social Assistance	42,244	1.4
Educational Services	29,190	1.4
Merchant Wholesalers, Durable Goods	31,153	1.3
Museums, Historical Sites, & Similar Institutions	1,460	1.3
Telecommunications	6,042	1.3
Comp. Infrastructure Prov. & Related Serv.	4,028	1.2
Performing Arts & Related Industries	4,078	1.2

SOURCE: U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS, QUARTERLY CENSUS OF  
EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES 2022

# ST. LOUIS REGION

Projected growth in industry helps to identify future employment needs for an area. Projections indicate that the largest industry growth in the St. Louis Region from 2020-2030 will be in the *Food Services and Drinking Places; Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services; Administrative and Support Services; Ambulatory Health Care Services; and Hospitals* industries.



## St. Louis Region Largest Growth Industries 2020-2030

Industry	Employment		Change	
	2020 Estimated	2030 Projected	2020-2030 Numeric	Percent
Food Services & Drinking Places	71,753	89,529	17,776	24.8%
Professional, Scientific, & Technical Services	64,921	72,429	7,508	11.6%
Administrative & Support Services	58,127	65,348	7,221	12.4%
Ambulatory Health Care Services	45,732	52,405	6,673	14.6%
Hospitals	67,779	74,144	6,365	9.4%
Educational Services	82,344	88,037	5,693	6.9%
Specialty Trade Contractors	33,339	37,133	3,794	11.4%
Accommodation, including Hotels & Motels	8,400	11,609	3,209	38.2%
Merchant Wholesalers, Durable Goods	29,798	32,231	2,433	8.2%
Religious, Grantmaking, Civic, Prof., & Similar Orgs.	26,101	28,251	2,150	8.2%

SOURCES: MERIC INDUSTRY PROJECTIONS, 2020-2030

PROJECTED GROWTH BY INDUSTRY HELPS TO IDENTIFY FUTURE EMPLOYMENT NEEDS FOR AN AREA.

## OCCUPATIONAL PROJECTIONS

MERIC produces occupational projections that estimates labor demand over a 10-year period. MERIC categorizes these occupations using its Now-Next-Later method to help job seekers understand the training, education, and experience requirements for various occupations.

**Now** jobs typically require short-term on-the-job training, little to no experience, and/or a high school diploma. **Now** occupations with the most projected openings are *Fast Food and Counter Workers; Home Health and Personal Care Aides; and Waiters and Waitresses. Ushers, Lobby Attendants, and Ticket Takers; Bartenders; and Dining Room and Cafeteria Attendants and Bartender Helpers* are projected to be the fastest growing **Now** occupations over the next decade.

**Next** jobs typically require a non-degree certificate, associate degree, apprenticeship, some experience, or moderate- to long-term training. *Cooks; Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers; and Nursing Assistants* are projected to have the most openings for the **Next** category of occupations. *Concierges; Cooks; and Occupational Therapy Assistants* are the fastest growing **Next** occupations.

**Later** jobs typically require a bachelor's degree or higher. For **Later** occupations, *General and Operations Managers; Registered Nurses; and Software Developers and Software Quality Assurance Analysts and Testers* are projected to have the most openings. *Nurse Practitioners; Logisticians; and Medical and Health Services Managers* are the fastest growing **Later** occupations.

## St. Louis Region Fastest Growing Occupations



NOTE: OCCUPATIONS WITH ANNUAL TOTAL OPENINGS OF LESS THAN 50 ARE OMITTED  
SOURCE: MERIC OCCUPATIONAL PROJECTIONS, 2020-2030

# ST. LOUIS REGION

## St. Louis Region Long-Term Occupational Projections by Top Openings




Occupation	2020 Estimated Employment	2030 Projected Employment	Growth Openings	Exits	Transfers	Total Openings	Median Wages
 NOW							
Fast Food & Counter Workers	22,825	26,389	356	2,386	2,602	5,344	\$23,649
Home Health & Personal Care Aides	33,152	39,921	677	2,339	2,069	5,085	\$24,244
Waiters & Waitresses	16,546	20,094	355	1,345	2,188	3,888	\$20,703
Retail Salespersons	28,734	28,041	-69	1,587	2,345	3,863	\$26,484
Cashiers	19,311	17,087	-222	1,548	1,742	3,068	\$23,669
 NEXT							
Cooks, Restaurant	10,232	15,517	528	758	1,102	2,388	\$26,404
Heavy & Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	12,972	14,080	111	554	917	1,582	\$52,641
Nursing Assistants	11,993	12,618	62	788	697	1,547	\$26,088
Bookkeeping, Accounting, & Auditing Clerks	11,573	11,214	-36	668	582	1,214	\$41,390
First-Line Supv. of Food Prep. & Serving Workers	6,415	7,910	150	320	730	1,200	\$33,098
 LATER							
General & Operations Managers	23,638	25,990	235	496	1,538	2,269	\$96,825
Registered Nurses	32,535	35,347	281	906	854	2,041	\$66,696
Software Developers & Analysts and Testers	15,411	18,227	282	390	825	1,497	\$97,945
Accountants & Auditors	12,873	13,709	84	370	787	1,241	\$71,382
Proj. Mngt. Specialists & Business Op. Specialists	12,183	12,756	57	289	612	958	\$78,075

SOURCE: MERIC OCCUPATIONAL PROJECTIONS 2020-2030

## ONLINE JOB POSTINGS

Job postings are an indicator of demand and opportunities in an area, and can assist individuals seeking job opportunities in current in-demand occupations. According to information based on online job posting data collected and aggregated by Lightcast™ for the St. Louis Region, jobs like *Registered Nurses*; *Software Developers*; *Sales Representatives*, *Wholesale and Manufacturing*; and *Retail Salespersons* had a high number of job postings in the region during the last year.

### St. Louis Region Top Five Online Job Postings in Now-Next-Later Classification

Occupation Title	Online Job Postings
 NOW	
Retail Salespersons	8,850
Customer Service Representatives	6,740
Fast Food & Counter Workers	5,780
Laborers & Freight, Stock, & Material Movers, Hand	5,600
Janitors & Cleaners	4,500
 NEXT	
Sales Representatives, Wholesale & Manufacturing	8,320
First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers	6,870
Maintenance & Repair Workers, General	5,070
Heavy & Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	4,470
Food Service Managers	4,380
 LATER	
Registered Nurses	25,550
Software Developers	9,060
Computer Occupations, All Other	5,950
Managers, All Other	5,660
Medical & Health Services Managers	4,810

SOURCE: LIGHTCAST™, ONLINE JOB ADS FROM MAY 1, 2022 - APRIL 30, 2023

This report was prepared by the staff of the Missouri Economic Research and Information Center (MERIC) as part of the Missouri Workforce Report. All data in this report was current at the time of publication and is subject to revision. Additional details on data sources can be found in the full report. This workforce solution was funded by a grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration. The solution was created by the grantee and does not necessarily reflect the official position of the U.S. Department of Labor. The Department of Labor makes no guarantees, warranties, or assurances of any kind, express or implied, with respect to such information, including any information on linked sites and including, but not limited to, accuracy of the information or its completeness, timeliness, usefulness, adequacy, continued availability, or ownership.